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- Question of the Day
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- News Bios
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- VOCM Back Talk
- VOCM Night Line
- Newcap Radio
- Steele Hotels
- Links
- About Us
- Careers
- Contest Rules
- Contact Us/Feedback

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## Private Members' Bill on Autism Services Passes in House

May 28, 2009

A Liberal private members' bill has passed in the House of Assembly, albeit with a few amendments from government. Members debated the province's autistic services for children. Opposition Leader Yvonne Jones was hoping to see services currently available up to the age of 6, extended to all children. Education Minister Darin King amended the motion, instead calling on government to work with the Autism Society, health authorities, school boards, and families to enhance quality of life through programs and services. NDP Leader Lorraine Michael supported the resolution, although she feels the amendment waters down the intent. Michael says she's seen the results of what can happen when the proper supports are in place for those affected with autism- her nephew is a resident of British Columbia. Jones says while not being as swift an action as had been hoped, she's satiated that government is prepared to work for better solutions. The motion passed unanimously.



Yvonne Jones

